

Message Text

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AIDAC

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SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBERSHIP FOR ICARDA

REF: STATE 147406

SUMMARY SUGGEST ICARDA SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDER
MALIK KHUDA BAKHSH BUCHA FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEMBERSHIP. BIODATA SUBMITTED. END SUMMARY.

1. MALIK KHUDA BAKHSH BUCHA WAS BORN FEBRUARY 5,
1906 AT MULTAN. HE STUDIES AT GOVERNMENT COLLEGE AND
LAW COLLEGE, LAHORE AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE PUNJAB
CIVIL SERVICE IN 1930. HIS CAREER INCLUDED VARIED
ASSIGNMENTS IN LAW, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE AND HIS
RESPONSIBILITIES INCREASED WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE ASSIGNMENT.
BY 1944, HE WAS SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB.

IN 1961 HE WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, AND
IN 1966 WAS DESIGNATED MINISTER OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE FOR WEST PAKISTAN. IN THIS POSITION HE HAD
MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION (INCLUDING
PURCHASING 40, 000 TONS OF SEED FROM MEXICO), AND RAPID
DIFFUSION OF THE NEW DWARF WHEATS IN PAKISTAN.

2. IN 1972, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ASKED MR. BUCHA
TO RETURN TO ACTIVE SERVICE AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
PRIME MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE. IN THIS POSITION HE HAS
HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO FURTHER INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION.
ALWAYS COGNIZANT OF THE CONFLICTING NEEDS FOR INEXPENSIVE
FOOD FOR THE POOR PEOPLE AND A REASONABLE RETURN FOR THE
FARMER, MR. BUCHA SIFTS INFORMATION RAPIDLY, MAKES
JUDICIOUS USE OF ADVISE FROM ANY SOURCE, AND WEIGHS
ALTERNATIVES CAREFULLY. HE HAS A FIRST- HAND FAMILIARITY
WITH THE PROBLEMS FACING THE FARMEMER, THE RESULT OF A LIFE-
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LONG ASSOCIATION WITH FARMING. HIS FREQUENT " NOW I AM

JUST A POOR FARMER -----" IS A PRELUDE TO EXPOSITION OF A
KNOTTY PROBLEM. HE IS EQUALLY AT EASE WITH FARMERS,
BUSINESSMEN, HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATS AND RENOWNED SCIENTISTS.
3. MR M BUCHA REPRESENTED PAKISTAN AT THE ROME WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE, AND FREQUENTLY ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS. HE IS WELL KNOWN TO OTHER LEADING
AGRICULTURAL FIGURES IN THE REGION AND HIS JUDGEMENT
IS RESPECTED. AS A BOARD MEMBER, MR. BUCHA WOULD
BRING HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE,
AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE FARMER AND
THE WORKINGS OF THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION, HIS ABILITY
TO WEIGH ALTERNATIVES, AND DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT
IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE.
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